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Extension Service REVIEW



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REUBEN BRIGHAM in
editorial "We Go Forward"

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We Go Forward

REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director of Extension Work



■ What is our ultimate objective in extension work? No one has ever given us a clearer or a more commanding conception of it than Dr. Seaman A. Knapp. He said: "Your mission is to solve the problems of poverty, increase the measure of happiness, to universal love of country add the universal knowledge of comfort, and harness the forces of all learning useful and needful in human society. The farm must be made a place of beauty, so attractive that every passing stranger inquires 'Who lives in that lovely home?'"

This conception of our ultimate objective not only broadens the responsibility of the Extension Service, but greatly enlarges its opportunity for effective service. The problems of the farm and the farm home are big enough and broad enough to challenge the best thinking of both farm people and trained extension workers. Are we able to do the job? Do we have the ability on farms and in the Extension Service to think through the problems and come out with the correct answers? Once we have the correct answer to the problems of a community, can we develop an action program that will bring about the desired adjustments?

This may well be the challenge of a new day for the Extension Service. We have extended, through educational means, the details of technical practices which many of the average and below-average farmers were unable to adopt, and which indirectly caused their economic situation to decline more because of the competition from the better-situated farmers who were able to put the improved practices into effect. It remains to be seen whether we can educate through planning for community action, and whether farm people can plan local adjustment programs which will meet the needs of their community and which can

be carried out locally or with the aid of the action programs. I think we can agree that we need such planning and that our farm people themselves are best prepared to do it. Furthermore, I believe that extension workers are in the best position to make practical contributions to the development of such programs.

It would seem, therefore, that the most promising opportunity for the Extension Service to be of assistance to farmers lies in assuming wholeheartedly an active part in the development of local thinking and initiative in connection with all the important problems of the local area. Of course there will be greater need than ever to carry on demonstration work in all the different fields and, especially, in the organization and operation of the whole farm. Also, farmers will require sound technical advice in connection with the adjustments planned.

The service that other Federal and State agencies can best render will be spelled out in the plans developed by representative farm people and in their recommendations for correct adjustments to meet existing problems in the area. The conservation practices that are needed in the area, the desirable adjustments in intertilled row crops, and the best means of making the adjustments will be suggested. The problem in soil conservation will be delineated, and desirable adjustments will be enumerated. The areas of low farm income, as well as border-line areas of successful full-time farming, will be spotted as a guide to the Farm Security Administration and its tenant-purchase program.

Thus, through the careful, considered thinking of local farm committees, the various State and Federal programs, based on the best information available, will be fitted into the whole picture, with each

program making its contribution to an improved agriculture.

The job of the extension agent as I see it might be boiled down to three main objectives:

First, to encourage the individual to do all he can to accomplish an improvement in his situation and in his methods of work. We should, by all means, continue to encourage individual thinking, planning, and demonstration. It is the life of extension work, and it is the hope of our farm people, of our Nation, and of the democratic process.

Second, to encourage voluntary cooperation between farm neighbors. Second only to the stimulation of individual thought and self-reliance is the inculcation of a cooperative spirit and the ability to engage in cooperative effort.

Third, to encourage farm people to cooperate with each other and with their State and Federal Governments on a State and national basis. This is the newer phase of extension work and one that presents a challenge as difficult to us as either of the foregoing. For our farmers, farm women, and farm boys and girls to understand and feel that something can and should be done in regard to State, national, and international situations now and in the future is imperative if progress is to be made.

We all realize, I think, that most of us are so burdened with details that it is extremely difficult to stand off and survey the whole field in all its high lights and shadows and to chart our course with truer aim toward the objective outlined by Dr. Knapp. Yet this very thing—difficult as it is—must be done. So long as we are dedicated as extension workers to the cause of the farm home and to the service of farm people, there is only one answer—"We go forward."

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • C. W. WARBURTON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

One Broad Extension Program for the Benefit of the Arkansas Farm Family

C. C. RANDALL, Assistant Director of Extension Work, Arkansas

Agricultural extension work is a service to all farm people—not merely limited to certain ages or groups. The broad concept of service to the entire farm family materially affects the development of extension programs and the interrelationships of projects and individuals.

In Arkansas there are no separate, independent extension programs. Actually, there is just one broad extension program, to which each extension worker contributes his or her part.

It has been the policy in this State to insist upon the maintenance of both a county agent and a home demonstration agent in a county, the administrators believing that a complete extension program can only be possible by the employment of both.

The philosophy of one broad program involving the farm as a whole is so deep-rooted in the minds of Arkansas extension people that individual planning and action are practically impossible. The breadth and all-inclusiveness of the program today militates against individualism. Extension work and its program have grown to require group action by extension people, group action of the farm family, and group action within the farm community.

On the 75 county agricultural committees, which are working boards of advisers for extension programs in the counties, are 3,684 farm men and farm women who represent their farm communities. It is these groups that consider the phases of the one broad program in terms of their individual counties. True, they discuss better livestock, but not just animals. Rather, their concern is proper use of land through improved livestock and how such improvement may affect the whole family, their communities, and their county. In their county planning, they consider gardens, farm flocks, home orchards, farm management, community activities, and

soil conservation, but always from the standpoint of the welfare of the family circle and their farm communities.

Farmers and boys taking part in rural better-homes activities, such as programs and tours, long ago ceased to be news. Commonplace is the appearance of the home demonstration agent on county-wide or community farmers' meetings, or the county agent speaking before home demonstration clubs. Farm women are just as much concerned about soil conservation as are their husbands. The establishment of farm-unit demonstrations 3 years ago in the State served to further emphasize the philosophy of interdependability of the farm home and the land in the development of a successful farm life. While the farm management and home management specialists were leaders in this particular project, the specialists in dairying, clothing, food conservation, forestry, general livestock, poultry, home industries, agronomy, and agricultural engineering contributed to the families' plans for balanced farm and home development.

As an example of how this works in Arkansas counties, I want to quote Harriet Patterson, home demonstration agent, Cleveland County, in a talk on the farm-unit demonstrations before the southern regional extension conference. She said:

"The county agent and I studied the farm-unit plans; we talked about them, discussed them, and were believers in farm units before we even suggested them to two of our strong demonstrators. When I say 'we,' I mean the county agent and myself, because, after all, the Extension Service is a service in which the two agents' plans of work must be as closely correlated as we should expect the farm and home plans of work to be.

"We visited each of the families and talked to the parents and children alike, all seated in one family circle. We explained what we

thought was the value of the demonstration, that of utilizing every foot of land by two types of plans, a 5-year plan and a 1-year plan; and we explained, too, the value of the systematic budgeting of the family income and systematic planning for a 5-year home-improvement and home-management program.

"We explained to this family how a portion of the income, which was being used to purchase feed, could be released for other purposes if the feed storage were planned so as to supply livestock needs on the farm. After discussing the various phases of the demonstration for about an hour, we left to give the family an opportunity to discuss it among themselves, because your successful demonstrators are those who want the demonstration.

"We have a county agricultural committee composed of one farmer and one homemaker from each township in addition to one representative from each governmental agency in the county. The farm families who were interested in being farm-unit-demonstration families made application to the county agricultural committee which selected one family from each township.

"Our demonstrations have been under way for a year and not a single family wishes to drop out. We are planning to establish about three more demonstrations in 1939 and to organize a county-wide farm-and-home tour in the fall. After a year's observation and study, it is my opinion that this type of approach to land-use planning is one of the most practical demonstrations the Extension Service has undertaken."

It is doubtful that farm people would ever accede to anything but a broad objective involving complete team play, so thoroughly appreciative are they of the strength of the service resulting from a program founded upon the welfare of Arkansas farm families.

Rehabilitation for the Dispossessed Farmer

DR. W. W. ALEXANDER, Administrator, Farm Security Administration

Charged with the responsibility of aiding the destitute and low-income farm families, Dr. Alexander tells what is being done about it. Next month H. H. Bennett, chief, will discuss the work of the Soil Conservation Service and how it dovetails into the long-time objectives of the Department as explained by Secretary Wallace in the first of this series published in February.

■ One of the most serious problems facing American agriculture today is the rapid increase in the use of farm machinery and the resulting displacement of farm laborers. Within the last 5 years the machine age has truly come to the farm.

It started shortly after the turn of the century when mechanization of wheat production changed the pattern of agriculture on grain farms. At first, industrial expansion and the western agricultural frontier could absorb most of the farm families that were pushed off family-size farms by the trend toward large industrial grain farms.

Farmers Displaced

Today, however, neither industry nor a physical frontier can come to the rescue of the displaced farmer; and agricultural mechanization is growing at a more rapid pace than ever before. It is no longer confined to one crop or one area. Machines of all sorts—tractors, combines, corn pickers, cotton pickers, cane harvesters—are invading every section of the country, lowering the cost of production and destroying the demand for millions of hours of man labor. As a result, there is an almost terrifying exodus of tenants, croppers, and small farmers who are being "squeezed out" by machines.

Most of these farm families, denied every vestige of security, are forced by circumstances to become migrants. They follow the crops from one section of the country to another, finding day labor on commercialized farms during the short seasons in which harvest hands are needed.

The Farm Security Administration, charged with the responsibility of aiding destitute and low-income farm families, faces new problems in 1939 because of this growing army of migrant farm families and the wretched circumstances in which they are forced to live. It has been estimated that already 500,000 families—nearly 2 million people—are on the march.

As a demonstration of what can be done for migrants, and as a direct benefit to several thousand families, Farm Security this year will complete a chain of labor camps in the West coast area. These camps, providing tent bases and sanitary and health facilities, offer a sharp contrast to the ditch-bank squatters' camps which hundreds of thousands of migrant families are forced to occupy.

Fourteen such camps have already been completed in California, and others are planned for neighboring States. Five mobile camps also will be built to follow the crops and provide temporary facilities for additional hundreds of workers. Health programs are being formulated which will benefit migrants.

These things, however, are only a drop in the bucket. They alleviate the immediate hardships of a limited number of families, but they do not give them any permanent security. There are hundreds of thousands more who have received little or no help.

In the other phases of the farm-security program—rehabilitation, tenant purchase, and homesteads—there is a more encouraging outlook. Several years of operation serve as a yardstick to measure results and guide the programs. Without them, thousands of additional families would be added to the homeless horde of migrants.

700,000 Rehabilitation Loans

In 1933, more than a million farm families were forced on relief by conditions beyond their control. The Government decided that it was cheaper and more practical to extend loans to help these 5,000,000 needy rural people regain independence on farms than to support them indefinitely on relief. During the past 3½ years the Farm Security Administration has made rehabilitation loans to nearly 700,000 needy and low-income farmers, who could not borrow on reasonable terms anywhere else because they had little or no security.

The loans are repayable over a period of from 1 to 5 years and carry 5-percent interest.

It was apparent that most of the borrowers could not become self-supporting unless some changes were made in their farming methods. Farm Security has helped them to make the necessary adjustments by using a carefully worked out farm- and home-management plan as the basis for every loan.

Adequate Standard of Living

A typical plan provides first of all for adequate food, clothing, fuel, and shelter for the family. The borrower agrees to follow a live-at-home program, producing most of the fruits, vegetables, meat, milk, and eggs which his family needs. To many rehabilitation borrowers, this type of farming is entirely new. In the past, they have raised cash crops almost altogether, paying cash for many necessities which could have been produced at home.

Rehabilitation loans often provide money for the purchase of livestock, and, under their farm plans, borrowers raise enough feed for their stock. Diversification, cover crops, and soil-building practices are emphasized.

Cooperative enterprises are helping many borrowers in their fight for security. When equipment is too expensive for one farmer to buy alone and is needed by a number of low-income operators in the same neighborhood, a loan may be made for joint purchase. Loans are also made so that borrowers can join cooperative associations when membership will be an advantage. This permits small farmers to compete with large mechanized farms.

Debt-Adjustment Service

Farm Security will continue to give debt-adjustment service to farmers who need it. Time extensions and debt reductions are voluntarily arranged with creditors through the help of local committees. More attention will be given this year to adjustment of group debts, such as those incurred by irrigation, drainage, and levee districts.

Many needy families are handicapped by poor health. The Farm Security Administration has a group health program which provides emergency medical care at a cost borrowers can afford. This is done with the co-operation of State and local medical associations. Approximately 90,000 needy farm families in 25 States are participating in the medical plan. It costs them from \$2 to \$4 a month per family. If borrowers do not have enough money to pay the fee, the rehabilita-

tion loan is increased to include that amount. The coming year will see an expansion of the group health program.

Grants for living expenses are being made where emergencies exist, but every effort is being made to rehabilitate farmers rather than to carry them on grant rolls.

Through the purchase-loan program, tenants, share-croppers, and farm laborers, including some of the successful rehabilitation-loan clients, are given an opportunity to buy farms of their own. These loans are repayable within 40 years and carry 3 percent interest. During the current fiscal year, approximately 5,000 such loans are being made. Information on low-cost construction is made available to these borrowers and to other

interested farmers. Improved tenure status for many rehabilitation-loan clients is being accomplished through the use of written, renewable leases.

Construction is practically completed on the 149 homestead projects initiated by the old Resettlement Administration. Farm Security Administration will complete the projects, make improvements where necessary, and select tenants and help them to become self-supporting on the places they buy or lease from the Government. In some regions these projects are being organized on a cooperative basis to permit homesteaders to compete with the large-scale mechanized farming pattern which has ruined them as individual farmers.

making it of the best quality. Factual material, no matter how important, unless presented in a way to make local application, is more than useless because people can so easily "turn the thing off," but facts presented after this fashion seem to make the grade: (Taken from a radio broadcast, November 27, 1938) "Speaking of sugar beets and crop rotations reminds me that I must tell you a story. Little Chris Jensen, as his neighbors know him, lives in the Manchester community and raises sugar beets. Yesterday at the annual sugar-beet field day he won the title of the smallest beet grower in Cascade County. (Chris weighs 132 pounds.) Well, this little giant has other qualifications for fame. By following recommended practices this past year he was able to grow 23.85 tons of sugar beets per acre on 15 acres of his land. This was the highest yield obtained by any beet grower in the district this year. Now it doesn't take much of a mathematician to figure that those 23.85 tons of beets, at the going price of \$6.90 per ton, were worth \$164.56 per acre. Chris also keeps a good set of records which show that his expenses on this crop were \$60.30 per acre, which leaves him a net income of \$104.26 per acre on those 15 acres of sugar beets. How did he do it? Well, here are some of the things which helped. First of all, he manured the land well, then he plowed it deep in the fall. Beets were planted on time; and every operation during the season, including thinning, cultivating, hoeing, irrigating, and all the rest were done on time. Oh, sure; he used commercial fertilizer—125 pounds per acre, and he says it pays big."

Thus, every beet grower knows that timeliness, the use of commercial fertilizers, and fall plowing are important recommended practices in the production of sugar beets, and Chris and his family are proud because they were mentioned over the air.

Just one more illustration: Sleeping sickness is spreading like wildfire throughout north-central Montana. A new vaccine is discovered and is available for distribution. A radio announcement brings phone calls, and all parts of the infested area order serum and veterinary service from the State livestock sanitary board, and thousands of horses are saved from almost certain death.

So . . . if the county agent wants to get information out to the farmers, get it to them first hand and now. Let radio do it!

A Useful Device

Indiana has prepared an index for a land-use-planning field notebook. The index is printed on a strip of gummed file tabs ready to be cut into individual tabs and placed on guides in a loose-leaf notebook. The headings used are: Population, land-use and crop trends, crop yields and trends, livestock numbers and trends, types of farms, cash income, prices and trends, tenancy, taxation, and private and public facilities.

Let Radio Do It

D. P. THURBER, County Agent, Cascade County, Mont.

■ One of the most important jobs confronting a county agent is to organize his work so that the most can be done with the least effort. That's management. All sorts of short cuts are tried, and many of them prove very effective. Working through the medium of news letters, by which the same message is sent to 1,500 farmers at the same time, is a good practice. Holding community meetings where free discussion of the problem can be carried on with from 25 to 150 farmers either listening or taking part, is a splendid method of teaching economically, but when it comes to reaching a large number of people and doing it in a hurry, the radio is in a class by itself.

Radio Calls a Meeting

For example, in May 1937, the first serious outbreak of Mormon crickets started hatching in the Eden community, which is located 25 miles south of Great Falls, the county seat of Cascade County. The population of Eden consists of 26 families, all living on farms. There are no telephones, and the mail is delivered twice each week—on Wednesdays and Fridays. Word came to the county agent's office on Friday morning that the State entomologist would be in the county Monday to set up an organization to fight the crickets, and it was imperative that every farmer in the infested area be present to help make plans for the campaign. How to get the word to those farmers was a problem.

Regularly, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 1 o'clock, radio listeners in this neighborhood hear an announcement like this: "One o'clock Friday and time again for one of those informal chats with Dan Thurber, your Cascade County extension agent. Come on in, Dan" . . .

On this particular Friday, this is what they heard next: "You friends and neighbors in the Eden community will be particularly interested to know that next Monday morning, June 1, at 10 o'clock in the community hall, Harlow B. Mills, the State entomologist (that's just a hard-to-pronounce word for bug expert) will explain the organization to be used in fighting Mormon crickets this year. Now there isn't time to send out letters, and none of you people have telephones, so I'm using the radio to call this meeting. Of course I know that Ben Staigmiller, chairman of the community planning committee on insects, will see to it that the hall is ready and that each one of you fellows listening will see to it that your neighbor who hasn't a radio gets word about the meeting. So, we'll be seeing you all Monday morning at 10 o'clock at the Eden community hall to lay plans for the battle against the crickets."

When Monday morning came there was a real crowd at the little community hall in that isolated Montana community. A check of those present showed that only one family in the entire community was not represented, and that farmer was still in town where he had gone to his wife's funeral.

With this kind of contact with the farmers, why should a county agent spend time and money sending out circular letters? Talking to those folks earnestly and frankly about their problems two and three times each week for 15 minutes makes us real friends and produces a channel through which extension work can be sold directly to the farmer. Of course there must be that "follow-up" and the "checking" of results, but through the radio you can really "tell 'em" . . . and if you are clever at it, you can also "sell 'em."

The time necessary to prepare a good radio program is one of the limiting factors in



Forestry Practices Work in Farm Woodlands

Tioga County, in southern New York, has the first private, nonsubsidized cooperative that is prepared to handle all products of the farm woodlot, such as firewood, pulpwood, lumber, and mine props. Strategically located, the woodland owners aim not only for better prices but strive to practice better forestry by controlled cutting.

The first sales contract, which has just been announced, calls for 100,000 board feet of sawlogs. The logs were bought by a company at Cayuta, N. Y. After deducting administrative expenses and allowing an extra 5 percent for sound forestry practices, the owners will receive substantially more than they would get as individual sellers.

Furthermore, the owners have the assurance that the forest will be improved rather than depleted, and that they will receive a full scale of the logs sold.

Incorporated as the Tioga Woodland Owners' Cooperative, the group has a membership of 50 persons who own and control 3,000 acres of merchantable timber. Cooperating and aiding in the project is the Extension Service of the New York State College of Agriculture, through the forestry department and Prof. J. A. Cope, extension forester.

The entire area which may be included has 100,000 acres and is rectangular in shape,

with corners at Waverly, Owego, Spencer, and Candor. About 30,000 acres are wooded, and nearly 25,000 acres contain merchantable timber. Ownership of the woods is divided among 800 individuals. Trees which will produce commercial products in this area include maple, pine, oak, beech, and hemlock.

A young high-school graduate, John Hyatt, of Owego, has been engaged as timber marker and is also being trained in log scaling.

At least five permanent wood-using industries are already operating within easy access of the region. The conditions are ideal for a successful woodland owners' cooperative, according to Professor Cope.

The Federal Forest Service acceded to a request of the Extension Service at Cornell for a survey and inventory of the woodlands in that section. The survey was started in 1936, with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service and the Tioga County Farm Bureau. A complete inventory of all standing timber was made in August 1936.

Members of the cooperative group sign an agreement that provides for the marking of all timber to be cut and sold through the cooperative which acts as a bargaining agency. The marking is done by a trained tree marker, and the Scribner log scale is used. The woodlot owner takes out an in-

surance policy as a protection for his property.

"It has no past but a very promising future," is the way Professor Cope describes the organization. "Under a democracy it is probably the best way to get forestry practices in farm woodlands."

Into Every Home

A simple guide to farm planning in North Carolina is being given wide distribution among farmers of the State. The publication, called "Facing Farm Facts—Food for the Family, Feed for the Livestock, Fertility for the Soil," is largely composed of easy-to-use tables on food and feed standards for the family and for livestock, a garden calendar, and a table of crop rotations with blanks for the individual farmer's own farm plans.

It is planned to put this publication into at least 90 percent of North Carolina farm homes. The A. A. A. addressograph list was used; and the addressed envelopes, together with enough copies for every farmer in the county, were sent to the county agents to be mailed out with a letter explaining the publication and signed by the county agricultural agent.

Agricultural Planning Comes of Age

■ An agricultural planning program, like a child, has to grow up. It does not come into being mature and fully developed. That is the belief of C. R. Jaccard, Kansas extension economist, who cites as proof this diary of the development of one region in Kansas:

March 1933. Agricultural planning committees of 14 southwestern Kansas counties met at Dodge City. The principal results of the meeting were recognition (1) that the area did not have enough feed-crop acreage to care for the livestock on hand, and (2) that wheat acreage should be reduced about 30 percent to balance and stabilize farm organization.

March 1934. Planning committees from 20 counties gathered at Dodge City and decided that an increase of 25 to 30 percent in feed grain and forage crops would be desirable. Such an increase, they said, would provide the feed normally purchased for the livestock in the area.

Becoming Land-use Conscious

March 1935. Committeemen from the same 20 counties again met at Dodge City. Beginning to become more conscious of land-use problems, they recommended "establishment of permanent pasture on unprofitable land now used for cultivation."

March 1936. Twenty-four counties, making up three type-of-farming areas, were represented at a meeting in which the southwestern Kansas planning activities were geared into the new national land-use county planning project. The delegates devoted their attention primarily to statistical tables on crop acreages. Results of this new approach to the problem showed the same 30-percent reduction in normal wheat acreage to be needed. The conference recommended that serious consideration be given to Federal purchase of unadapted land.

It was in this year that the Resettlement Administration started sociological surveys in this area.

As soon as data from these surveys were available in the spring of 1937, county clinics were started. At these meetings, which were called by the Extension Service and attended by planning committeemen and representatives of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Farm Credit Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and Farm Security Administration, consideration was given to all social and economic information available on agriculture in each county.

March 1937. Planning committees of 21 counties, meeting at Dodge City, requested that plans be drawn up for an action program to be presented for their approval at their 1938 conference. State land-use planning committee members from this area were

instructed to see that such a plan was made. In April, State committee members met and approved a plan for holding county clinics.

March 1938. A program of action for improved land use in southwestern Kansas, developed through county clinics, was approved by planning-committee members from 21 counties at their annual meeting at Dodge City. The conference recommended the institution of a Federal-purchase program for the acquiring of surface rights to all land not adapted to any profitable form of agricultural use under private ownership; a leasing or purchase program for certain additional acreages; a reclassification of land for the purpose of taxation, with exemptions or benefit payments for sod land and restoration land; modification of the agricultural conservation program docket to encourage local leasing and control of land for protective purposes; Federal cooperation with local governments in retaining title to all land acquired through tax delinquency, to be operated by a local administrative agency, any net income derived therefrom to be paid to the local government in lieu of taxes; the formation of land-use or grazing associations with Government cooperation; and cooperation of the State and county highway departments with individuals to con-

trol erosion hazards in southwestern Kansas.

It was recommended that no additional agencies be set up to carry out the proposed remedies until existing authorized agencies had been used to their fullest extent. The limitations of present agencies and needed extension of their power were discussed in detail.

"Such a comprehensive plan as that could not have been drawn up for these counties back in 1933 any more than a new-born baby could have gone out into the field and done a day's work," Mr. Jaccard comments. "The farmers who drew up these plans from year to year developed an understanding of the basic problems through experience, and that experience convinced them of the necessity for a complete detailed survey of the area that would definitely locate on a map the primary land-use problems. Experience also convinced them that the best way to solve those problems was to call the various federal agencies together and to help those agencies to fit their work together and aim at the specific needs of each area in each county."

"No county that is undertaking land-use planning for the first time should expect to complete the job in 1 year. Plans that really work are plans that grow and develop for many years."

Nebraska and Louisiana Work Together

■ W. H. Brokaw, director of the Extension Service in Nebraska, recently visited the various parishes in Louisiana that grow potatoes from the certified seed potatoes that are bought annually from Nebraska. Although Nebraska furnishes seed potatoes to a number of States and Cuba, Louisiana makes the largest purchase of this seed each year. Approximately 175 carloads of seed potatoes from Nebraska are bought yearly by Louisiana growers.

Nebraska can produce disease-free seed potatoes because the section of the State in which the seed is grown is ideally located for the production of this seed, points out Director Brokaw. The friendly relationship that Nebraska enjoys with the Louisiana potato growers, members of the extension staff, and the research workers was emphasized by Mr. Brokaw.

A carload of Nebraska certified Irish seed potatoes, grown by 4-H club members in that State, will be used by members of the

Rapides Parish 4-H Irish Potato Club this year. Two more cars going to St. James, Terrebonne, and Lafourche Parishes will be replanted by 4-H club members, also. These potatoes are to be delivered to the boys at a saving of about 30 cents per hundred pounds. This will mean a saving of \$75 to the 4-H club boys of Rapides Parish, says B. W. Baker, assistant agent. This will be the first time in the history of extension work in Rapides Parish that an entire carload of certified Irish seed potatoes grown by 4-H club members will be planted.

Nebraska will send to Louisiana this spring the champion 4-H club certified seed-potato growers. Director Brokaw said that the youngsters would arrive in time to make the annual potato tour through the heavy potato-producing sections of the State. Further co-operation by the Nebraska Certified Potato Growers' Association is the offer of \$100 in cash prizes for the best potatoes grown from the Nebraska seed.

Why Keep Farm Family Accounts?

MRS. BONNIE GOODMAN, Home Management Specialist, Oklahoma

Farm families themselves say that there are advantages in learning how much the necessities of the home cost, so that they can know how much will be left for education, recreation, gifts, and savings. One advantage, they say, is knowing the costs for the various phases of family living, so that the family can make adjustments in their expenditures. Other advantages are knowing what the farm contributes to home living, such as food, fuel, and a house to live in; and knowing whether the farm is making or losing money. One account demonstrator recently said: "If we had not kept the costs on 20 acres of oats a year ago, we should have been ignorant of the fact that the oats cost us 63 cents per bushel in the granary, when oats were selling for 30 cents a bushel, which was more than a 50-percent loss." Another account demonstrator related that they had been raising cotton for years because they considered it to be a good cash crop, but after keeping accounts for a year they found it was not nearly as good a cash crop as some of the side lines such as turkeys, chickens, eggs, and cream.

A large number of families keep records after a fashion. These records are in the form of notations on the kitchen calendar of the number of eggs gathered, the pounds of butter sold, and the date of certain farm sales such as cotton or cattle. Other families have a little notebook with one section devoted to the number of jars of food canned and another section for the grocery bill owed at the country store. The number of farm families who keep a systematic record of all cash income, all cash expenses for the farm and home, and the value of farm products used in the home is small. Why? Because a large majority of people do not take the time to make their entries at the time articles are purchased, and other members of the family fail to report expenditures to the account keeper; also, for lack of a convenient place in the home for keeping records and not having available a good farm and home account book.

It has been found that one of the best ways to interest farm people in keeping accounts is to ask them what their cash income was from the farm during the past year, how much it cost to make that income, how much they spent for the home living, and how much it cost to operate the family automobile last year. If it is impossible to answer the questions, the family immediately realizes the need for keeping such records. Another method is to say: "The average cash income for a large group of families in this State last year was \$1,500; how does this compare with your



A group of account demonstrators in Harper County, Okla., working on their books.

income?" Or to say: "The average family of four people spends \$186 for food per year. Does it cost you more or less to feed your family of four persons?" An interest must be created before farm people realize the value of keeping accounts.

In working with the 375 farm home account demonstrators in Oklahoma last year, it was found that young married couples just beginning their farming career, people who had been teachers or who had been in business, and people who had always kept the kitchen calendar and notebook records made some of the best account demonstrators.

Many people wonder whether or not account books are of any value after they have been kept. The information in account books can be of great value to many people when properly analyzed and summarized. Data from 142 account books submitted in Oklahoma were tabulated and organized in three mimeographed bulletins: Home Account Summary by Area-Type Farming, Farm Family Income and Expenditures of Owners and Tenants, and Summary of Farm Family Finance by Income Class and Family Type. A copy of each of these bulletins was sent to the account demonstrator when her book was returned, asking her to compare her expenditures for items of family living with the average expenditures of other families in that area, also with families of the same income and size as her own. When farm families dislike to submit their books to the county or State office for analysis, they may be helped to make their own analyses by the specialist or a county agent.

All extension workers receive a copy of the three bulletins and find them helpful in studying the economic status of farm fami-

lies in Oklahoma as it applies to extension work. The information on present income, spending patterns, and economic problems of the home disclosed by the account books is proving very helpful in land-use and program planning by other groups working for Oklahoma's rural population.

Home Improvement Meetings

Hundreds of Maine farm homes will be made more comfortable, convenient, and attractive as a result of the State-wide series of meetings on how to make repairs and improvements in and around the house at reasonable cost. The meetings were held by the Extension Service in cooperation with local community groups, with both men and women taking part.

The county agent discussed the subject of painting the house. The home demonstration agent told about the many little improvements that can be made around the house at no cost at all, as well as those that can be done with little money if there are some good carpenters, a willing spirit, and some materials on hand that can be used. She also discussed making plans for the larger improvements over a longer period of years. A good exhibit of photographs showed improvements that have been made in Maine farm homes at low cost.

The women, says Edna M. Cobb, home management specialist, liked these meetings because both men and women talked about improvements in the home that formerly only women talked about and wished they could have.

All Work Together To Plan a Program

RUBY FLOWERS, Home Demonstration Agent, Napa County, California

■ Much of the ground work for the coordinated nutrition program worked out at the home demonstration planning day in May 1938 had been laid at the previous agricultural economic conference when the county farm adviser had invited men prominent in agriculture, finance, and education to take part. The farm management group had recommended "more diversification of crops and livestock enterprises, where practicable, as one important way of increasing the net farm income on farms which are too small in size of business at the present time to provide a satisfactory standard of living. * * * Operators of such farms would do well to consider the production of as large a proportion of their own food needs as is economical and thereby make themselves as self-sufficient as possible."

The nutrition group was one of the five interest groups which entered into the May program-planning day, a new departure in determining the home demonstration program. Project leaders, secretaries, and extension specialists met with the farm folk in May instead of in November or December as formerly, so that more people could attend.

The success of the day was due largely to careful preliminary work which had been done with the chairmen of the interest groups—nutrition, home management and recreation, clothing, home furnishing, and farm-home-grounds planning. I had summarized all the work in each extension project during my 15 years in Napa County and, together with the assistant home demonstration leader, outlined a plan for each interest group to follow at this 1-day program-planning meeting.

Study Food Production Problems

The nutrition group emphasized the importance of studying the needs of food production on the individual farms in the county. Accordingly, the assistant farm adviser and the home management specialist made a brief preliminary survey of the situation to ascertain the feasibility of vegetable, milk, and fruit production for the family.

The farms which were reported as "too small in size of business to provide a satisfactory standard of living" were almost entirely dependent on the prune crop. Eight of these families cooperated with the Extension Service in giving information on the situation. All of the families had vegetable gardens and produced some fruit for home use. Seven of the families had used home-produced eggs and poultry; five had milk and cream; four, butter; three, nuts; and one had butchered

some hogs for home use. The average value of the home-produced food, not counting the expense incurred in producing it, was \$242 per family. In general, the larger the family, the higher the value of food produced at home, although the value of food produced at home per person in the family was slightly less. Since on six of the farms visited prunes were a main farm enterprise, it was natural that prunes should be the fruit most commonly produced. Other fruits from the farm which were most frequently reported were apples, pears, apricots, and melons. The reasons most frequently given for having a garden were: The family liked the fresh vegetables and could have more of them; it saved money; and someone in the family was interested in gardening and found it a source of relaxation and enjoyment. One of the gardens was a 4-H project. Other reasons for having gardens were: To save going to town; to use otherwise idle land; and to have vegetables to give to others. The operator of the farm family did all or part of the gardening, although other household members sometimes helped or took the full responsibility. Some of the work was done by hired help. Beans, beets, carrots, chard, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, and squash were found in half or more of the gardens.

A report of this survey was given at the regular meeting of the county committee of the farm home department in October, in which the assistant farm adviser and I took part with members of the State staff. Several farm members present volunteered to keep records, with the assistance of extension workers, on the production of home-produced foods, including fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, poultry, hogs, rabbits, and goats.

The recommendations of the program-planning day were mimeographed and sent out to all who attended the meeting. At the next farm home department meeting each chairman had the different project leaders present to their local groups these recommendations for discussion. A month later the assistant State home demonstration leader and I met with the county chairmen who calendared a 1½-year program. This calendar was mimeographed and distributed to all chairmen, vice chairmen, and secretaries at a local executive meeting held in each center. Since the program was not following the regular routine, it was necessary for dates to be specifically set down for each group. Since project leaders were to have charge of certain regular meetings, the dates for fall training meetings had to be determined and announced to chairmen for their information.

This newer method of planning has cer-

tainly made for a richer and more varied program. It is better understood by more members who feel that it is really "their own" to put into effect. It has also given me, as home demonstration agent, a feeling of greater security and definiteness by having a year and a half calendar tentatively made. The nutrition program will be furthered by the foods produced at home, since foods important in the diet will be available for the families cooperating. As reports of desirable methods of food production are made, and the estimated value of foods is given, doubtless many additional families will be encouraged to begin some production of food for home use.

Marketing Eggs

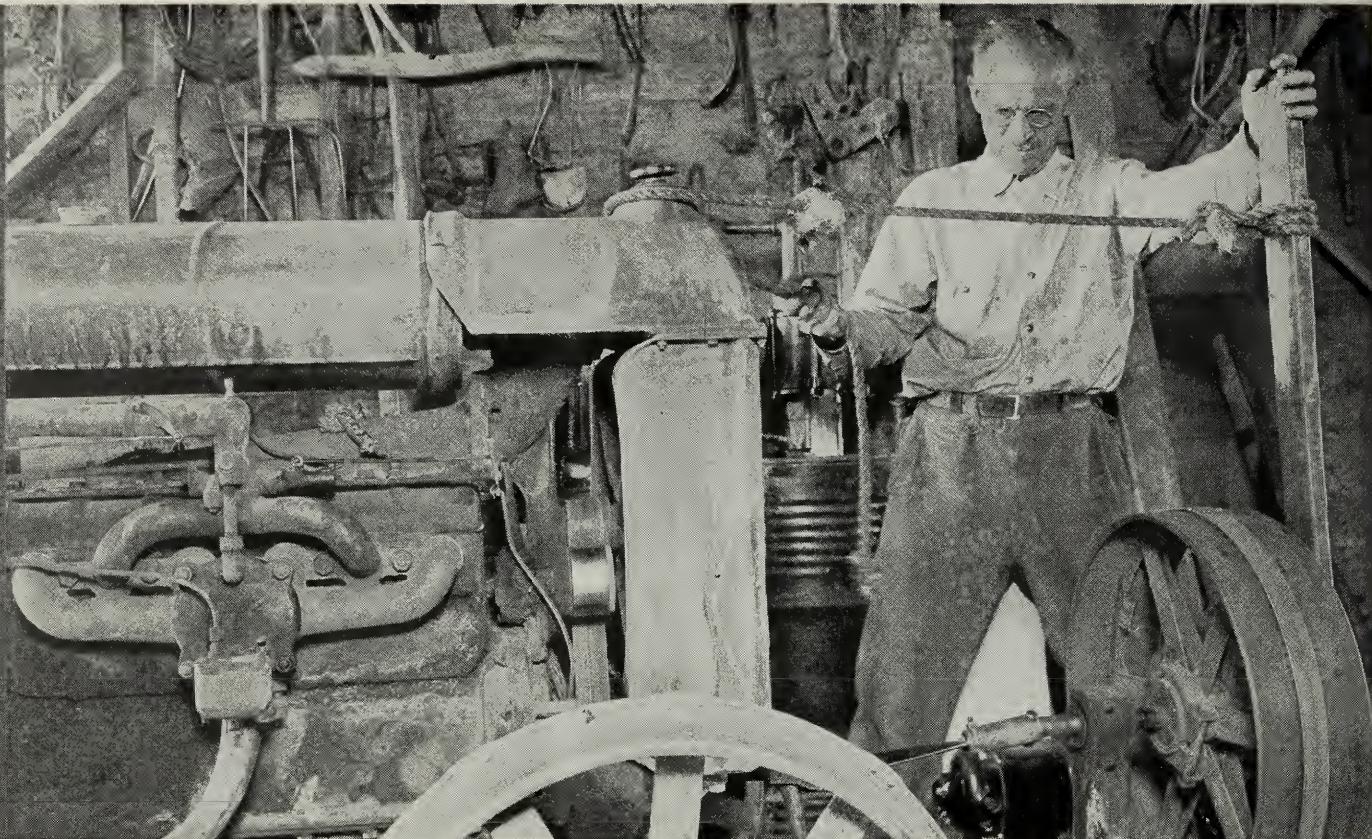
A new 4-H club contest has been inaugurated in Georgia, designed to give farm boys and girls an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership in encouraging entire communities to adopt improved methods of marketing eggs.

The contest, which began March 1, is open to any 4-H club member. Accomplishments made from the opening date until June 15 will be the basis for judging county winners. District winners will be selected in July. The State winners, one boy and one girl, will be selected at the Southeastern Fair in Atlanta in October. Free trips to the World's Fair in New York will be awarded the State winners.

The county agent and the home demonstration agent whose respective boy and girl club members do most to develop the contest will also be awarded trips to the World's Fair.

Each 4-H club member competing in the contest will be required to carry on actual marketing work with eggs and to keep records. Educational demonstrations dealing with the improvement of egg quality during the hot-weather months will be a part of the contest work.

Leadership activity in organizing community egg circles and developing group marketing of eggs on a graded basis will be a feature of the contest in each county. Market outlets for the eggs have been arranged through the sponsors.



Keeping Farm Machinery in Condition

B. A. JENNINGS, Agricultural Engineer, Extension Service, Cornell University

■ Years ago we attempted to give farm-machinery school meetings at which the repairing and the adjustment of ordinary farm equipment were to be discussed, the idea being that perhaps we could help the farmer to get better service from his machinery and also to lower the cost of upkeep. Our 5-day tractor schools had been satisfactory, and we could see no reason why machinery meetings would not also be worth while. They were almost a complete failure. The farmers were not interested. The attitude seemed to be: "What can that professor from the college tell me about plows when I have been using them for 40 years?"

The result of these earlier meetings rather dampened our enthusiasm for extension work in farm machinery until some years later when our department began putting out what we call "service letters." These were printed sheets of one page with an idea about one particular subject, and they were sent out at the correct season of the year. A number of these letters dealt with the adjustment of farm machinery.

The results of these letters were: First, kindly comments from some of the county agents; then questions from some of the farmers; and following these, calls for the same type of farm-machinery meeting which we had previously given up as a failure. These service letters accomplished one thing—they

brought to the farmer's mind the realization that there were some things about his machinery which he did not know all about, even if he had used it for 40 years.

Last year we held six 3-day farm-machinery meetings, six 1-day farm-machinery meetings, 28 plow-adjustment meetings, 4 binder meetings, 8 spray-rig meetings, and about 20 potato-digger-adjustment meetings. This may give you some idea of the interest in farm machinery at the present time.

At the general farm-machinery meetings, the farmers bring in machines to be repaired. Lectures on adjustment and repair are given, and the men actually repair their machines. A portable forge, anvil, electric drill, and electric welder, as well as hand tools, are taken to the meeting. With this equipment, we are able to do almost any kind of repair job that may come up, such as straightening a plow beam or building up the face of the stop arm on a binder. The purpose of these meetings is not to provide repair service but to sell to the farmer the idea of properly taking care of machinery and operating it in the field.

At the present time there is no one to whom the farmer can turn for machinery repair. Manufacturing companies and their dealers apparently are not interested in doing general repair work, or at least they have not been in the past. It is true that some repair work is being done by dealers, but

this is usually on a machine that has been taken in on trade and will later be resold to another farmer. The local blacksmith, who is almost extinct, usually is not able to do an adequate job of overhauling. As a result of the present condition there is only one person who can be responsible for this work, and that is the farmer and owner. The farmer has two ways—one is to let things go and, when they break, patch them up as best he can, perhaps with a piece of wire, and then buy a new machine when the old one gives him too much trouble. The other is to keep the machine in good repair. Rather than use the word "repair," I should like to use the word "tune-up."

The question is, What does this mean to you and to me? The farmer has a large investment in machinery. Approximately one-tenth of his total investment is in farm machinery, not including tractors, trucks, and gas engines; and for this outlay 25 percent of its value is spent for upkeep, depreciation, and interest. It means that the farmer's machine bills are extremely expensive.

What percent of the total man-hours of agricultural engineers is spent on farm machinery? I wonder if it is more than 5 percent. Is too much of our extension activity taken up with other jobs which are, perhaps, easier to handle than the question of farm machinery?

4-H Clubs Use Credit Cooperatively

■ 4-H clubs have recognized for some time that some plan of handling their credit problems on a strictly business basis would be a valuable part of their training and experience in preparation for farming. It was apparent that the way to obtain credit on a business basis was for the boys and girls to pool their credit needs and borrow as a group. This situation was also recognized by the Farm Credit Administration early in the development of the production credit associations, and special provisions were made for club members to borrow on the same business basis as their parents. Consequently, many clubs, through their leader or sponsor, now borrow money cooperatively.

The production credit associations recently completed a survey of the use of credit by young farm people, in which the experience with 4-H clubs was included. The survey included the years 1936 and 1937. The following table gives the approximate number and amount of these 4-club loans:

	1936	1937
Number of group loans.....	208	291
Number of members obtaining loans.....	2,154	2,610
Average number of members per group.....	10.3	8.9
Total amount of loans.....	\$171,488.19	\$191,438.15
Average amount of group loans.....	\$824.46	\$657.86
Average loan per member.....	\$79.61	\$73.34

These loans were not made directly to each individual but were made through a trustee

who was responsible for supervising the projects of each borrower. Farmers, club agents, and county agents acted as trustees. Each boy and girl is individually responsible for his or her loan, and the group does not make up the loss on any individual bad loan. The group purchases B stock in the amount of 5 percent of its loan and becomes a member of the production credit association, just as adults do. If individual loans are not paid, then its stock becomes impaired. This places a direct moral obligation on each member of the group to pay his or her loan promptly when due. As most of these boys and girls are not of legal age, a parent or other responsible person endorsed their notes. By borrowing as a group through their 4-H club leader they were able to obtain assistance and counsel in handling their credit problems from someone intimately familiar with their projects, the use they expected to make of the money, and their plans for repaying the loans.

This survey does not, of course, represent the total borrowings of all 4-H members. Many other members are obtaining credit to finance their projects jointly with the loans granted their fathers by the production credit associations. Commercial banks, local merchants, dealers, and service clubs also extend credit and financial assistance to them.

Secretaries of production credit associations have called attention to many projects in which the use of credit has enabled the boys and girls to increase their profits.

A majority of the boys and girls in this survey evidently have developed an understanding of good credit requirements with the result that they have been able to repay their loans and build a good-credit rating.

Expansion Program

Home demonstration clubwomen of Benton County, Ark., having set out to increase their membership by 521, or from 1,279 to 1,900, during 1939, were almost halfway to the goal by the end of January.

In a concerted effort directed by Mrs. Lila B. Dickerson, home demonstration agent, to reach a greater percentage of the farm families, Benton County clubs observed Expansion Day during their regular monthly club meetings in January in various ways designed to interest the women of their community in the extension program.

The Oak Grove Club held a community luncheon at the Oak Grove Church, to which both men and women were invited. The Centerton Club held a meeting at Marrs Hill, a neighboring community, to organize a home demonstration club there, and the Avoca Club gave a tea in their clubrooms, to which all the women of the community were invited.

Through these and similar programs by other clubs in the county, 196 new members were enrolled during January.

Missourians Organize for Custom Terracing

■ The Missouri Agricultural Extension Service is credited by a Missouri trade magazine published at St. Louis with having organized America's first association of custom terrace builders. This organization, known as the Missouri Terracing and Conservation Contractors' Association, was formed at the close of Missouri's annual farmers' week on October 27, 1937. To date it has held four meetings, adopted constitution and bylaws, and set up definite standards for the engineering and construction services offered. The membership is made up of individuals and companies that do custom terracing for Missouri farmers.

This new industry has grown up within the last 2 or 3 years as a result of the widespread acceptance of scientific methods of erosion control. The services rendered to farmers by these contractors include laying out the terrace lines in accordance with correct engineering practice, actual construction of the terrace ridge on the lines surveyed,

the construction of waterways, and all types of scraper and fill work required in building terrace and outlet systems.

Custom terracing, with the contractor furnishing the power and machinery needed, was done during 1938 in at least 29 Missouri counties, says Marion Clark, extension agricultural engineer for the College of Agriculture. These counties are: Cooper, Pettis, St. Charles, Lafayette, Lincoln, Lewis, Carroll, Caldwell, Daviess, Howard, Jackson, Bates, Johnson, Platte, Clay, Boone, Grundy, Mercer, Pike, Marion, Morgan, St. Louis, Warren, Audrain, Montgomery, Lawrence, Saline, Henry, and Ralls.

Many of the men doing this type of work are young farmers who originally received training and experience in terrace construction as local leaders in cooperation with the Extension Service in their own communities. The type of service which they gave on a volunteer basis soon found a demand outside their own neighborhoods to an extent which

made it necessary to establish a schedule of prices at which the work could be done on a custom basis.

Rates charged have varied somewhat, according to county agent reports, ranging from \$45 to \$52 a mile for completed, standard, broad-base terraces, with a charge of \$4 to \$5 a mile for laying out the terrace lines.

Custom terracing, though a very new industry, has proved very helpful to the Extension Service in demonstrating correct methods of erosion control and in getting this work done on a large scale, says Mr. Clark. Many farmers unable to own the expensive machinery required for this work are able to make an immediate beginning on terracing systems, using their A. A. A. soil-building payments for this purpose. Furthermore, the training and experience of the men now in this type of work—backed up by the standards imposed by the new organization—guarantee correct placing and construction of the terrace ridges.

Landlord-Tenant Cooperation in South Carolina Gets Encouraging Results

The plantation live-at-home program, originated by members of the South Carolina Extension Service home demonstration staff in 1933, has made some real progress in the 5 years of its operation, says Lonny I. Landrum, State home demonstration agent. "The plan involves landlords and tenants in a cooperation to encourage and aid tenants to produce sufficient food and feed to meet minimum requirements for their families and their livestock."

In 3 representative counties selected to initiate the project in 1934, there were 13 landlords and 98 tenant families—27 white and 71 Negro families—under a 3- to 5-year planting plan directed principally by the nutrition and production specialists of the State home demonstration office. In 1938 the project was conducted in 7 counties on 17 plantations, with 108 tenant families—about 600 persons. All home demonstration specialists and the county farm and home agents take part in the work.

Some Typical Results

Some data on food and feed supplies reported by the 108 families in December 1938 will indicate encouraging progress: 50 families had a cow, 69 families had one hog—55 families more than one, 48 families had a good supply of sirup, 89 families had sufficient sweetpotatoes, 26 families had sufficient wheat, 66 families had sufficient corn, and 28 families had some hay.

Seventy-four families canned an average of 41 quarts of fruit and 52 quarts of vegetables, and 3 families canned some meat.

Marlboro County tenants planted 58 fruit trees, 5 grape vines, and 3 strawberry plantings. In Anderson County, 70 fruit trees and 11 grapevines were planted.

As would be expected, much improvement in the health of tenants is noted. Though the number of tenants making corrections of physical defects has been rather small because of lack of money, a smaller amount of money has been necessary for doctors and medicines for these tenant families. This is attributed largely to more adequate food supplies and better-planned and prepared meals.

In Anderson County in 1934, when the project was started, the 32 tenants had very little poultry and what they had was of very poor quality. Now practically all of these

tenants have the 15 hens required and raise the 50 or more chickens each year needed in their food supply. Some are now going beyond these minimum poultry requirements. In 1938, one white family built a brooder house and raised 150 chicks. In another family the young son enrolled in a major poultry project, built a log brooder house and brick furnace, got 100 chicks, raised 94, sold 47 as broilers at a net profit of \$14.60, and kept 47 pullets for fall layers.

In Beaufort County, a plantation tenant live-at-home project is unique because the 17 families cooperating are all Negroes who technically own their own little farms which, however, are mostly mortgaged to a landowner who finances the farming operations of these Negro "owners." Hence the occupants are virtually "tenants."

Mary Ellen Eaves, Beaufort County home demonstration agent, tells the following story:

"The Pages Point plantation project was organized in March 1935, when 15 families met with Jane Ketcham, specialist in charge, and the home agent. The plan of the live-at-home program was explained, and work sheets were prepared for each family.

"Each year the foods program, directed by

Myra Reagan, nutrition specialist, emphasized adequate family food supply, conservation, food preparation, nutrition, and health habits.

"Led by Portia Seabrook, home management specialist, the families studied phases of home management, storage spaces, homemade equipment, and buying problems. The houses of all the tenants were whitewashed; two new houses were built, and six houses were remodeled. Six storage spaces were built, and better kitchen equipment was bought by some families.

Food a First Consideration

"As a result of our conservation program, each family canned in 1938 from 150 to 200 cans of good-quality foodstuff. However, we have not worked together long enough to produce much improvement in the planting program other than in gardens.

"All families canned tomatoes, soup mixture, string beans, butter beans, peaches, pears, pumpkin, carrots, shrimp, and field peas. By supplementing the canned foods with vegetables from the garden, the families received the required quantity of vegetables.

The Beaufort County plantation project was responsible for this new home built by a Negro farmer. The old cabin can be seen in the rear.



"As we had had farm tours for the 2 previous years, members of the group asked to have a community fair. Each of the 17 families, using its own initiative, exhibited a variety of farm produce and canned goods, together with a record of the work accomplished during the year. Blue ribbons and cash prizes were awarded by community farmers to the family having the best record and the largest variety and best quality of farm produce and canned foods.

"This group has developed a well-organized club with a leader who calls meetings when notified.

"Poultry has an important place in the Beaufort County program. Eleanor Carson, poultry specialist, gave the different families instructions in brooder house and equipment, brooding of chickens, simple coop equipment, and home production of feed. We find already improvements in the stock. All poultry houses have been repaired, and a better feeding program has been followed. Each family has the minimum number of chickens.

"A request came early for clothing work, so Elizabeth Watson, clothing specialist, conducted a sewing school. Four new dresses were made, three old ones were remodeled, and construction problems were discussed.

"We called a meeting one night for men and women. Much to our surprise, when we arrived at the meeting we found 21 men but no women. 'Ah!' they said, 'we wanted to come, so we left us wife to care for the chillens.' The wives came in the afternoon.

"Every time we went out for a meeting we rode up the 'big road' and blew the horn as a signal that we were ready for the meeting. On one occasion we met Jacob — coming down the road all by himself in a wagon: 'Hey, Jacob, where is Mary?' 'Oh, she is sick, so I come to took her place.' Jacob is part preacher and part farmer, so he is a good combination for the community. On being given a sealer and taught to use it, he helped the families to seal a total of 1,000 tin cans. Jacob always says, 'I go whenever called.'

Self-help and self-reliance are important products of this tenant project, as indicated in reports from all seven counties. Miss Eaves expresses it in these final words:

"This group shows outstanding improvement in their ability to can their own surplus vegetables, carry out farm practices, and cooperate in working out their problems with just the leadership of their president and the home agent. At one of our planning meetings several said: 'We can do it; we have the stuff to do it with, and you can count on us.'"

■ By using native building materials, home labor, and plans supplied by the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, farm families in 19 northeastern Arkansas counties saved \$260,950 on the \$1,492,305 worth of farm buildings they constructed in 1938, according to J. O. Fullerton, district extension agent.

States Turn Attention to Summer-School Planning

■ Interest in special training courses for extension workers continues to grow, and plans are now getting under way in 16 or more States for the 1939 extension summer schools. For the most part, the work will be similar to the summer sessions of the last 2 years, with the majority of the States offering courses in extension education as well as instruction in agriculture and home economics. Information on the entire summer-school situation is incomplete, but here are some of the high lights of the scheduled courses that have been reported by various States up to date. The next issue of the REVIEW will carry a more detailed account.

Home demonstration agents will be interested in the travel course in rural adult education in Great Britain, offered by Columbia University, in connection with the trip to the 1939 triennial conference of the Associated Country Women of the World in London. The study tour starts when the group sails from New York on May 24 and terminates in London on June 27. There will be lectures and discussions en route to Europe, special assignments during the triennial conference, followed by a 3-week tour of England to observe such rural adult-education enterprises as women's institutes, county councils, and cooperatives with special reference to home economics. Dr. Edmund de S. Brunner, of Columbia University, in charge of the work, will be assisted by Gladys Gallup, home economist of the Federal Extension Service.

For the third consecutive year, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado have cooperatively planned a 3-week extension school at the Colorado State College of Agriculture, Fort Collins, July 10 to 28. The courses will include methods in extension work given by H. C. Ramsower, Ohio director; agricultural planning, by William Peterson, Utah director; Our Rural People, a course in population trends, by O. E. Baker, of the United States Department of Agriculture; land use, by G. S. Wehrwein, of the University of Wisconsin; and additional work on Problems of a Democracy.

Plans for a second area training center were recently completed at a meeting in New Orleans with Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi supporting a 3-week session to be held at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, July 10 to 29. A course in extension methods will be given by M. C. Wilson and Gladys Gallup, of the Federal Extension Service; rural social organization will be given by B. O. Williams, of Clemson College; and Louisiana State University faculty members will give courses in farm manage-

ment, rural electrification, advanced soil fertility, livestock production, nutrition, buyer-consumer education, gardening and landscaping, and advanced poultry management.

California announces a 6-week summer session, June 26 to August 5, offering subjects relating to agriculture and home economics given by resident faculty members. For the agricultural agents, 6-week courses in current economic and social problems, and soil science and plant nutrition are listed; and for the home demonstration agents, the courses are arranged in two successive terms of 3 weeks each. Courses in the first term will include experimental food study and Consumers and the Market, and the second period will offer Present Status of Human Nutrition and Household Management in Relation to Family Living.

At the University of Kentucky, Lexington, a 15-day session, June 12 to 28, will include Agricultural Policy, by J. D. Black, of Harvard University, and Current Problems in Agricultural Economics, by H. B. Price, of the faculty. Purdue University, La Fayette, Ind., is scheduling a 3-week school for July 3 to 22, with a course in farm prices to be taught by E. C. Young. Courses in extension education are also being considered.

Special training courses for Negro extension agents working for graduate and undergraduate credit will again be offered at Prairie View College in Texas, June 19 to July 8, similar to last summer's 3-week session when 75 men and women Negro agents enrolled. Extension methods will be given by Dr. E. H. Shinn, of the Federal Extension Service; and additional courses, including leather work, agricultural economics, and land use, will be offered by resident faculty members.

Definite plans are being made for extension summer schools at the land-grant colleges in Maryland and Virginia and at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. It is anticipated that summer sessions will also be held in Iowa, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont. A school for Negro extension workers is contemplated at Hampton Institute, Virginia.

Many extension workers are making use of their summer leave for professional improvement. Last summer, 480 extension workers from 34 States attended special training courses offered for them at land-grant colleges in 14 States, namely Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, and Vermont; at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; and at Prairie View College, Texas.

Dr. R. A. Pearson Dies

■ Dr. Raymond Allen Pearson, former president of the University of Maryland, died recently at his home in Hyattsville, Md. Dr. Pearson was long known as a leader in agricultural education. From 1912 to 1926 he served as president of Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, establishing a reputation for administrative ability and as an authority in the field of natural science. During the World War, his services were enlisted by the Department of Agriculture as an assistant secretary. After resigning from the presidency of the University of Maryland in 1935, Dr. Pearson served as special assistant to Rexford G. Tugwell, formerly administrator of the Rural Resettlement Administration. At the time of his death he was serving as coordinator for the Farm Security Administration and the land-grant colleges.

Dr. Pearson's long years of service to the land-grant institutions were marked by some of the more important steps in their development. He served as president of the association of land-grant colleges and universities in 1923 and 1924, and from 1919 to 1935 as chairman of the executive committee. He was one of the strong supporters of the Smith-Lever Act, the Smith-Hughes Act, the Bankhead-Jones Act, and other legislation which greatly expanded the work of the colleges and the Department of Agriculture.

"Dr. Pearson's counsel will be sadly missed by all interested in the development of American agricultural education," said Dr. A. F. Woods, in charge of the United States Department of Agriculture Graduate School. "He was not only a scientist, administrator, and scholar, but a gentleman of the finest type.



Although he was reserved, his interest in people was sincere and lasting. He was always ready to lend a helping hand. His outstanding trait in administration was careful attention to all the details necessary for the success of an undertaking. Everyone who knew him intimately was his friend."

He was born at Evansville, Ind., and graduated from Cornell University where he also taught dairy industry for some time. Early in his career he served as commissioner of agriculture in New York for 4 years and as Chief of the Dairy Division in the United States Department of Agriculture.

required in 7 States, and in 1 State 5 years are required. Two States reported no fixed plan of prior service. Where the leave period for specialists is less than 6 months, the required previous service is 4 years in 1 State, 5 years in 2 States, 6 years in 1 State, and 7 years in another State.

With the exception of two States, Pennsylvania, where 10 years is required for county workers and 7 years for State workers, and Massachusetts, where 5 years of service is required for county workers and 6 years for State workers, the prior service requirement is the same for both county and State workers.

A variety of practices are followed in handling the work of State and county extension workers on leave for more than 6 weeks. Fifteen States divide the work of absent State employees among remaining staff members; 11 States fill the position by temporary appointment; 4 States assign assistants in training to handle the work; and in 3 States part of the work accumulates. The work of county agents on leave exceeding 6 weeks is assigned to assistant agents in training in 10 States; temporary appointments are made in 9 States; and in 8 States the work is divided among the other county workers. Frequently, a combination of methods is followed.

Where county and State workers are granted more than 6 months' leave they receive half pay in all States except California which gives them two-thirds of their salary. Mississippi pays 75 percent of the salary of State extension workers on leave. In four of the six States where the leave granted specialists is only 2 to 6 months, full salary is paid to State workers. A number of the States paying half salary for leave periods in excess of 6 months give full salary when from 2 to 6 months' leave is taken.

Extension Workers Profit from Sabbatic Leave

■ According to a survey of all extension services, county agents are granted sabbatic leave for professional improvement in 19 States and Territories including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and Utah.

State subject-matter specialists are granted sabbatic leave in 26 States and Territories including those listed above and the following 7 additional ones: Indiana, Louisiana, Min-

nesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, and Tennessee.

The length of the leave period which may be granted varies somewhat, depending upon whether the educational institution operates upon the quarter or semester system. More than 6 months' leave may be granted to county workers in 15 States and to specialists in 20 States.

In 10 of the 20 States granting more than 6 months' sabbatic leave to specialists, the leave period must be preceded by 7 years of service. Only 6 years of prior service are

Big Lespedeza Year

Farmers of Van Buren County, Ark., are increasing their acreages of soil-conserving crops for 1939, says H. W. Robertson, county agent.

Three hundred and four farmers have placed a cooperative order for 50,000 pounds of Korean and 1,200 pounds of Kobe lespedeza, and 300 pounds of lespedeza Sericea through their county and farm organization.

According to reliable information, this will be the largest amount of lespedeza seeded in any one year in Van Buren County. Practically all of this seed will be used in connection with the agricultural adjustment program.

By purchasing the order of lespedeza seed cooperatively through the farm organization, the farmers saved from 50 cents to \$1 per hundred pounds. By having an organization to work through, they could not only buy wholesale but could get terms from the handlers until the seed could be delivered.

Struggling for a Solution of Our Problems

D. A. ADAMS, County Agent, Young County, Tex.

For a number of years we have been attempting to lay the foundation for efficient farm planning through the demonstration, but it is only within the past 3 years that we have begun to concentrate demonstrations on an all-farm basis. We have carried many demonstrations to a successful conclusion through the efforts of individual demonstrators and community organizations, based primarily on increase in production; but now we are also considering the conservation of resources for a better family and community life—particularly the problem of getting proper balances in crop, food, and livestock production; soil conservation; and learning how each affects the farm family as a whole in any given area. In turning from one system of conducting the demonstration to another, it was necessary to make inventories through land-use-planning work in order to discover our problems.

County-wide Goals Set

Planning work was begun in Young County on a comprehensive basis in 1936. At that time the county program-planning committee selected by the agricultural council and home demonstration council conducted educational meetings in the various communities throughout the county, giving farmers the economic background of agricultural conditions. Then, in order to find out what changes might be necessary to adapt a revised agricultural program to Young County farms, farmers were asked their opinion on just what the total acreages for the county should be for the various crops. The county planning committee, at the conclusion of this work, prepared a set of county figures for the different crops by weighting the average percentages arrived at in the various community meetings. We made the mistake of applying the estimates of farmers in various communities to a more or less fictitious average farm.

In 1937 the county planning committee decided to spend more time getting farmers to think of their individual farms and farm problems. In addition to cropping systems we studied the livestock units and the farm family food supply. In educational meetings, farm-data sheets for individual farms were filled out by farmers to give us a picture of their problems and their suggestions for changes in the farming operations in the light of existing economic conditions. We took a random sample of the data sheets turned in from the entire county and, from the average obtained from them, set up a county average farm to show how it existed at that time and

what changes should be made, based upon the recommendations given by the farmer in the data sheets. After we had completed the county average farm, it was used as a basis to determine what the county total figures should be in regard to the various crops, livestock units, and family food supply.

This program was much better because it represented more of the individual thought of the farmer and his family, yet all of this thought lost its identity when the county planning committee set up as an example a county average farm. We used a random sample from an area too widely scattered to set up a county plan of work for an individual farm that would fit all portions of this county. In educational meetings later we found that we had overlooked the importance of soil-type areas and their effects on farming set-ups and the farm family.

So, in 1938, using the experience gained and profiting by the mistakes made in 1936 and 1937, we attempted to work out a more satisfactory program based on soil types and the farm home. It was decided by the home demonstration council and the agricultural council that, rather than hold large group meetings, the work would be done in the county office with the representative committees from the various soil-type areas serving as our county land-use-planning committee. Profiting by the experience gained before, we, as agents, found that we had much work to do in order to begin building a more satisfactory land-use program.

Our first step was to divide the county into preliminary soil-type areas; and, in addition, we had to find out what the existing farm-crop systems were within the various areas, what the yields of crops were, and what the livestock units were. In order to get this information, a close study was made of A. A. A. records, both farm and ranch. We also had to know something of the situation and trends on a long-time basis. We studied the census figures and discovered interesting things in a tabulation of the trends of crop acreages for the past 30 years in Young County.

The county committee of 15 men and women studied the preliminary map prepared by the agents and established six soil-type areas instead of the original four. After the areas had been established, the county committee was divided into subcommittees with membership from the respective areas. Each subcommittee was then given the results of the previous 2 years' work and copies of the information on cropping systems as they applied to their soil-type areas

only. With this information at hand they began to prepare and set up what would be an economic-size farming unit, one which would fit a family-size farm or ranch and which could be operated with modern equipment in such a manner as to maintain soil fertility, prevent soil erosion, and provide a satisfactory standard of living for the farm family. The various committees actually were setting up a farm unit for a farm family to provide the very things that we as extension people had been trying to teach through the demonstration way for a long time. Wise land-use planning was being built around the welfare of the farm family worked out in a soil-type area in which common problems existed. At the completion of the work of the subcommittee we found that, instead of having one average farm for the whole county, we had six farms for six soil-type areas with common problems, each one different from the other. In addition, definite recommendations as to size, acreage of the various crops, size of livestock unit, soil-conservation practices, gardens for home food supply, and feed-storage facilities were given.

Farm Recommendations Made

In discussion meetings and other educational meetings held in regard to the work done in 1938, we found that we still had not gone far enough in planning work. We decided to go a step farther and make definite recommendations as to farm-food-supply plans, recommendations as to a better system of record keeping, and a definite plan of individual development for each member of the farm family. Since these suggestions were brought out in 1938 in educational meetings held within the soil-type areas, local land-use committees have been elected for 1939 with the idea of revising the work already done in regard to farm activities and, if necessary, supplementing it with the foregoing recommendations before taking the entire land-use program to the farmer and his family. We believe that final approval of the land-use plan adopted should come from the farm home itself to the local land-use committee and then to the county committee, rather than from the county committee and subcommittees to the farm home. We feel that when these two methods of approach have been complied with we shall, in our plan for 1939, have a very complete set of recommendations for the farm and home—a definite goal for each farm family to work toward in connection with each soil-type area.

New Film Strips

Among the new film strips recently completed is an unusual one on soil and water conservation by the beaver, made up in cooperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey, which includes some interesting pictures of this industrious little animal familiar on many farms and in the nearby forests.

Several series in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will be welcomed by county agents. There are also several timely series on such subjects as wheat storage and corn storage in the ever-normal granary, and tree planting on the prairie plains. New home-economics series include guides to buying children's clothing and wash dresses. The 17 film strips listed below have recently been completed or revised in cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; the Bureaus of Agricultural Economics, Animal Industry, Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Home Economics, Plant Industry; and the Soil Conservation Service. They may be purchased at the prices indicated from Photo-Lab Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, D. C., after first obtaining authorization from the United States Department of Agriculture. Blanks for this purpose will be supplied upon request to the Extension Service.

New Series

Series 413. The National Poultry Improvement Plan.—The series presents the major purposes of the national poultry plan and illustrates practices followed by those participating in the plan in producing quality hatching eggs, baby chicks, breeding stock of five progressive breeding stages, and three pullorum-control stages. 48 frames, 45 cents.

Series 421. Soil Conservation in California.—Illustrates some of the soil-conservation problems in California and some of the methods that are being used for solution. 44 frames, 45 cents.

Series 427. Guides to Buying Children's Clothing.—This series shows the outstanding things to look for and things to avoid when buying a growing child's clothing. The characteristics noted apply whether the garments are bought ready-made or made at home. 56 frames, 50 cents.

Series 454. Guides to Buying Wash Dresses.—Illustrates the outstanding things to look for and what to avoid when buying women's dresses. The points under discussion apply whether the garments are bought ready-made or made at home. 59 frames, 50 cents.

Series 459. Treat Seed Grain.—Frames 4 to 34 illustrate the various diseases of cereals that are controllable by seed-treatment methods and how they are spread, and frames 35 to 54 show how to clean and treat seed grain

in order to prevent these diseases. 56 frames, 50 cents.

Series 469. Erosion Control in the Southwest.—Illustrates how farming practices that fail to check erosion lead to reduced fertility, reduced farm income, and abandoned farms; and shows how good farming practices and erosion-control methods conserve soil and water for profitable production. 39 frames, 45 cents.

Series 476. Keeping Minnesota Soil at Home.—Illustrates the extent of erosion in the Driftless Area of Minnesota and shows the practices which are being used by farmers to reduce soil and water losses. 48 frames, 45 cents.

Series 477. Keeping Wisconsin Soil at Home.—Illustrates the extent and significance of soil erosion in Wisconsin and the steps being taken to reduce the losses of soil and water. 48 frames, 45 cents.

Series 478. Saving Iowa Soil.—Illustrates the damage done by soil erosion in Iowa and practices which are being used to check this damage. 48 frames, 45 cents.

Series 497. Keeping Illinois Soil at Home.—Illustrates the extent and significance of soil erosion in Illinois and methods which are being used to conserve the soil and water resources of that State. 48 frames, 45 cents.

Series 498. Hay Quality—Relation to Production Practices and Feed Value.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletins 1539, High-Grade Alfalfa Hay; 1573, Legume Hays for Milk Production; and 1770, High-Grade Timothy and Clover Hay. The series illustrates the various steps in the production, handling, and storing of high-quality hay and its importance in the economical production of livestock and livestock products. 54 frames, 50 cents.

Series 499. Insect Enemies of the Flower Garden.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletin 1495 and illustrates the life histories and habits of some of the more important insects that attack flowering plants and indicates methods of prevention and control. This film strip is adapted for use in virtually all States, so it will have educational value in all parts of the country. 57 frames, 50 cents.

Series 500. Flower Gardens.—This series is designed to stimulate interest to establish more flower gardens and to beautify the home grounds. It shows types of flower gardens found on many farms, as well as a few formal community enterprises. 64 frames, 50 cents.

Series 501. A. A. A. Farm Program for the Western Region.—Shows such features of the farm program as national acreage allotments, loans on corn and wheat, marketing quotas, wheat-crop insurance, and soil conservation. 41 frames, 45 cents.

Series 502. Soil and Water Conservation by the Beaver.—Describes the history, habits, and economic relations of the beaver with practical reference to farm and forest lands and illustrates the methods of establishing new colonies by live trapping and transplanting. 48 frames, 45 cents.

Series 503. Insect Pests of Garden Vegetables and Their Control.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletin No. 1371, Diseases and Insects of Garden Vegetables, and illustrates the life history and habits of many of the more common insects affecting garden vegetables with suggestions for their control. 62 frames, 50 cents.

Series 504. Gully Prevention and Control.—Illustrates some methods in use for the prevention and control of gullies. 75 frames, 55 cents.

Progress Among Cotton Farmers

Mississippi farmers are making remarkable progress in increasing the yields and improving the quality of cotton grown. In 1938, 16,536 farmers were members of 140 one-variety cotton communities. These farmers planted approved seed of superior varieties recommended by the Extension Service and ginned their cotton on gin days to keep the seed pure. They produced an average of 59 pounds more lint cotton per acre, received \$4.35 more per bale, and added \$1,580,227 to their cash income by growing better cotton.

Members of the one-variety associations made \$7.86 more per acre and \$95 more per member than nonmembers. All producers, however, have shared in the improvement which has come from one-variety-community and 4-H cotton-club work.

According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, only $\frac{3}{10}$ of 1 percent of the 1938 Mississippi cotton crop was shorter than seven-eighths inch. This compared with 2.3 percent in 1937. The report showed that 65.5 percent of the 1938 crop ranged from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and that only 3.7 percent was less than 1 inch in staple length.

The average yield of cotton in Mississippi has steadily increased from an average of 185.6 pounds per acre for the 1928-32 5-year period to 316 pounds in 1938, a gain of 130.4 pounds per acre. Following the development of improved ginning equipment and ginning practices by the Federal Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville, 186 gins in 1938 made improvements, including installation of new gins and the addition of cleaning and extracting machinery, dryers, and new gin stands.

Ten one-variety communities qualified for the Federal free cotton-classing and marketing service under the Smith-Doxey Act. This service is now available to groups of producers organized to promote improvement of cotton.

High Lights from the Record

Square Meals

Maine homemakers have been concentrating on "Square Meals for Health" for the last 11 years in an effort to plan simple, well-balanced, inexpensive meals for their community gatherings.

The work has been carried on as a contest from the beginning—first as a State contest and since 1931 as a county contest with small cash awards and ribbons for the winners. The "Square Meals for Health" score card and folder worked out by the State nutrition specialist have guided the women in the selection of menus, large-quantity recipes, and size of servings. To have the meals qualified as "square meals," the menus must be approved by the home agent or the community foods project leader in advance, and a written report must be submitted to the county extension office within 3 days after the community meal has been served. Dinner committees are chosen a year ahead in most communities, and, later on, clean-up committees are selected in order to carry out the affairs with ease.

The influence of the work has gone far beyond organized extension circles, for the homemakers have served "square meals" to various groups of grange, church, and civic organizations, as well as to extension gatherings. In 1927, the first year the project was carried, 1,687 approved "square meals" were served to 30,094 people; 10 years later 59,703 people were served 2,974 meals.

County Problems Committee

Program building in Boone County, Mo., has been effectively developed through the planning work of a county problems committee composed of a man and a woman from each of the 15 major communities, says County Agent Wendell Holman. These 30 rural leaders have been giving serious study to their farm and home problems in their respective communities and reported their findings at an all-day meeting of the committee last February. It was apparent from their discussion that increasing the farm income; control of erosion; improving pasture and feed production; and improving health services, schools, churches, and roads were among the important problems in the county.

Because of inadequate information on these problems in various communities, subcommittees were appointed to make additional studies. These subcommittees met in the early spring and, with the assistance of extension specialists, worked out a questionnaire which was used as the basis of discussion for the 15 community committee meetings which followed. From this discussion

material a county area map was developed. The subcommittees met again in joint session in the fall and, after an all-day study of the information on the questionnaires, summarized the discussions in the form of recommendations that were later presented to the county problems committee which used the findings as a basis for the 1939 program of extension work in Boone County.

4-H Clubs Plant Trees

This spring, 4-H club boys and girls in New York will plant 1,160,000 trees which will reforest more than 1,000 acres of waste land. By the end of this spring, their fourteenth year of tree planting, the youngsters will have set out nearly 14,000,000 trees, reports James D. Pond, of the New York State College of Agriculture. About one-third of all junior tree planters are girls.

At the same time, nearly a half million other trees will be planted by students of vocational agriculture in the State. This will bring their total of trees planted since the beginning of the program to nearly 3,000,000 trees.

Under a cooperative arrangement with the State conservation department, each young tree planter may obtain free, 1,000 trees to start a demonstration plantation.

This year, among the 4-H clubs, Oneida County returns to its former lead with orders for 118,000 trees. Club members in this county have planted about 1,200,000 trees in the past 14 years under the leadership of County 4-H Club Agent E. G. Smith. Broome County follows with orders for 81,000 trees, and Delaware County with 61,000 trees. Sullivan County, having had organized clubs for only 1 year, is fourth, with 50,000 trees to be planted.

A Curb Market

Cooperation is the keynote of the Charlotte, N. C., curb market operated by the farm women of Mecklenburg County, for not only did the members of the 18 home demonstration clubs enter into the planning of the market but they also share in its success. Each club has a booth with one or more members from each group on hand to do the selling and, whether present or not, each member can sell her home products.

The market outgrew its quarters the first year, so rapid was the success of this venture launched in 1936 by Mrs. Pauline Taylor Culp, home demonstration agent in Mecklenburg County at the time. Operating but 2 days a week, the market averaged \$20,000 annually the first 2 years. County appropri-

ations soon were provided for larger quarters directly across the street from the county extension office, and the market continues to flourish under the supervision of the home demonstration agent and a market manager. The salary of the latter is paid by a certain percentage of sales, any surplus going into a market fund.

The market has averaged 52 sellers from the start, and customers are offered a wide range of products, including dairy products, poultry and eggs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, handiwork, and baked products. A number of the homemakers make fancy cakes and pastries with the caterer's touch, an art which they learned in short courses conducted by Mrs. Culp and which may partly account for the baked things topping the sales lists. The market is splendidly equipped with counters, storage rooms, rest rooms, and toilet facilities. Adequate parking space for both producers and customers is provided. The market has become so popular that during the last year it was operated on a third day, Friday, in addition to Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Cooperatives Grow

Cooperative swine markets in eastern North Carolina sold 94,673 hogs for \$1,501,519.14 last year, stabilized the price of hogs, supplied farmers with information on better marketing practices, and enabled them to determine whether the price they received for swine from other sources was a fair one.

These facts, figures, and conclusions were reported by H. W. Taylor, swine specialist of the State College Extension Service, who helped to organize the 16 cooperative marketing associations in the State at present.

Fourteen of the sixteen associations in the State have been formed since January 1, 1937, a little more than 2 years ago. Before 1920 all North Carolina hogs were classed on the eastern markets as "southern hogs, soft and oily" and were discounted as such. Under the direction of W. W. Shay, then swine specialist of the Extension Service, the packers agreed to pay top prices for North Carolina hogs shipped cooperatively if they "killed hard." This was the beginning of cooperative markets.

■ Five boys and girls in 4-H club work in Michigan have been named winners by a Detroit committee for their recent work in submitting an essay on the subject, Where and How Are Livestock Prices Established?

William E. Dickison, Jr., Sault Ste. Marie, took top honors and a watch for best presentation of the answers.

A Home Demonstration Agent Goes to School

**Mrs. LORNA K. WHITE, Home Demonstration Agent,
Caledonia County, Vt.**

■ This summer I happened to be "on the spot" at Cornell University for a little re-education. After the first week I wondered if I had ever had any education. At the end of the second week it just seemed to me that being a Vermont home demonstration agent could not ever have been as involved as I had thought—compared to this. By the end of the third week only a grim determination to finish what I had started kept me afloat. Fortunately, by the time the fourth week got under way I could begin to wade into somewhat shallower water.

This whole situation of wondering if I would ever do anything but wonder was precipitated by a course called "Leadership in Home Economics," taught by the program specialist on the New York State Extension staff.

No simple assignment was given out, but each week five or six questions—any one of which would stump an encyclopedia—were presented for our consideration. There was no textbook available. Instead, we used literally stacks of theses and bulletins which might give a lift in answering perhaps one question. Besides classroom work and its preparation and outside reading requirements, we were asked to make observations of work being conducted in New York State, either by the Extension Service or by other organizations. These meetings were to be analyzed as to methods used and their effectiveness. One observation took three of us 110 miles away on a day when the temperature was 112° F.

I might say that out of this class of 24 students two-thirds were home demonstration agents from all over the United States. A very valuable part of this course was the opportunity it afforded to talk informally with others in the same line of work and to find that what you thought was your own particular problem was their problem too.

The instructor's plan was that the first week be devoted to clarifying personal problems in adult homemaking education; the second week to the basis for planning a program; the third week to procedure for planning; the fourth week to lay leadership and cooperation with other agencies; the fifth week to leadership methods; and the sixth week to sources of help available and to summarizing the work on good leadership for adults for better family life. During the entire course, emphasis was

placed on the accurate thinking through of each problem.

My chief delight during the 6 weeks was a course on Personality Development and Family Relationships. The subject matter and the instructor made this course far from monotonous. His attitude lifted the course from a scramble to learn all the "55-cent" words applying to modern psychology to a matter-of-fact treatment of facts and realities. It is my firm determination to take more of this work if I return for further study sometime.

About now you are probably wondering why a home demonstration agent goes to school anyway! Some of you may know that the Vermont Extension Service requires its agents who have been on the job 5 years to "refuel" themselves. The benefits derived from new contacts and new scenes and the inspiration gained from such a course cannot be measured.

After you recover from the shock of finding out that you probably could learn something new, you can settle down to the challenge and go back to your county with renewed hope and a small prayer that you may really accomplish something.

TOMORROW

■ Age is stealing up on Extension. On May 8, extension workers will observe the silver anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act by President Wilson, which established extension work throughout the country as a cooperative Federal-State organization dedicated to the service of rural people.

■ What has extension work accomplished during the last quarter century? What is the sweep of the job ahead? The May number of the *EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW* will mirror some of the significant extension accomplishments in various States and counties. Dr. C. B. Smith will present an appraisal of the contribution Extension has made since 1914. In "New Horizons", Director C. W. Warburton will discuss what the future holds in the way of an enlarged field of service. The May number will also carry

the names of all State and county workers who have been on the job for the entire 25-year period.

■ In addition to the special anniversary features, H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, will write of the plans for the administration of the soil-conservation work and how they fit into the general program for the Department as explained by Secretary Wallace in February.

■ Other articles will discuss the plan of integrating farm and home demonstrations by Director White of Mississippi, the land-use approach to extension programs, by Director Corbett of Connecticut, and an effective argument for 4-H club work in the article, "Why I want my daughter to be a 4-H club member," by George Schmidt, assistant county agent of Trumbull County, Ohio.

More Grass in Kansas

Grass—the first Kansas crop—still is one of the State's most important resources. Recognition of that fact is growing as farmers endeavor to restore the grazing capacity of range land depleted by drought and overgrazing. Simple practices designed to "give the grass a chance" have become increasingly popular during recent years.

Last year, more than 7,500 farmers practiced deferred grazing—the practice of keeping stock off the grass during the growing season and thus permitting it to produce seed and store up strength in its roots. That was an increase of 4,100 over the number of farmers who used deferred grazing in 1937.

Other measures taken to rebuild pasture resources included the mowing of 53,000 acres of grass at the recommended time to control weeds, seeding of 47,600 acres of lespedeza in permanent pastures, and the establishment of 1,095 new pastures.

ON THE CALENDAR

Triennial Meeting, Association of Country Women of the World, London, England, May 30-June 9.

National 4-H Club Camp, Washington, D. C., June 15-21.

American Home Economics Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Tex., June 20-23.

American Dairy Science Association Annual Meeting at State College of Washington, Pullman, and State College of Idaho, Moscow. June 27-30.

Seventh World Poultry Congress, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, July 28-August 7.

American Country Life Association Conference at Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., August 30-September 2.

IN BRIEF

Country Life Conference

The American Country Life Conference is holding its twenty-second meeting at the Pennsylvania State College from August 30 to September 2, 1939. The theme for this year is A Look Ahead for Rural Life. The Fourth Annual Pennsylvania Country Life Conference will be included in this gathering.

Record Keepers Honored

Twenty-nine Iowa farmers who have kept business records for the past 10 years and 7 Iowa farm women who have kept records of home expenditures for the last 5 years received recognition certificates during farm and home week, February 13 to 18. Farm record keepers have received such recognition for the past 3 years, but this is the first year that home account keepers have received certificates.

A Busy Year

Nearly 30,000 calls on extension workers in their offices in 10 of the State's counties were made by Nevada farmers, stockmen, and farm homemakers in search of information and assistance on some agricultural problem during 1938, reports Thomas Buckman, assistant director of Nevada Agricultural Extension Service. This number was nearly 50 percent greater than it was 2 years before.

During the last year the county extension agents also visited 3,001 of the 3,312 farms and ranches in the 12 counties of the State which are officially served by agents.

4-H Agricultural Yearbook

The United States Department of Agriculture is not the only organization issuing an agricultural yearbook, reports Clifford L. Smith, Washington (Ark.) County agent. The boys of the Trace Valley 4-H Club are making a scrapbook of pictures of various farming operations which they cut from magazines and newspapers and arrange with descriptive legends in chronological order, according to the month during which the operations are carried out on the farm. This 4-H agricultural yearbook deals with crops, livestock, and farm improvement—both from a soil-building and farmstead standpoint—and will give a complete outline of farm work for the year.

To Sing at Fair

The Illinois Rural Chorus will fill a 1-week engagement this summer at the New York

World's Fair, marking a climax to the sixth successful season for the rural singers, it was announced recently by D. E. Lindstrom, assistant chief in rural sociology in Illinois.

The chorus of nearly 300 rural singers and musicians from 36 Illinois counties will present a 1-hour program at the New York exposition during the week of August 7 to 13.

The chorus will sing a few selected numbers in addition to Harvest Caravans, a cantata written especially for the organization by a faculty member of the University of Illinois School of Music.

The organization was launched 6 years ago as a part of the program of the Extension Service to assist rural people in planning and executing their own cultural and entertainment activities.

Better Babies

Some 5,000 preschool children were enrolled in 357 better baby clubs in 54 Arkansas counties during 1938; 266 "better baby" clinics have been held with the cooperation of the county health units in 35 counties; 2,174 families in 70 counties carried out the baby's canning budget; and 7,529 families in 76 counties reported following recommended methods of child feeding, according to Gertrude E. Conant, Arkansas nutrition specialist.

Whole-Farm Demonstrations

Farm and home-management demonstrations were conducted on 410 farms in the 82 counties in Mississippi during 1938. The extension specialists cooperated with local county agents in working out farm and home-management plans and programs for these farms, which are designed to supply basic information and to serve as demonstrations in developing more efficient farming and home-making programs for all farms.

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AMONG OURSELVES

■ L. I. Skinner, who has been associated with the Georgia Extension Service since 1919, has been appointed assistant director of extension in that State. A native son of Georgia, he has served as district agent since 1923. Previous to 1923 he had served as county agent in Columbia, Hancock, and Henry Counties.

■ May E. Haddon, Mississippi nutrition specialist, has just returned from a 6-month tour of Europe where she studied nutrition, spending most of her time in Sweden and in Aberdeen, Scotland.

■ John R. Hutcheson, director of the Extension Service in Virginia for the last 20 years, was among the 12 Virginians named to the second annual Virginia honor roll compiled by the Richmond Times Dispatch and published in its New Year's edition. The roll lists those "who were conspicuous during 1938 for courage, ability, intelligence, or tenacity . . . achieving above and beyond what is expected of them." Of Director Hutcheson the Times Dispatch said: "Thus 1938 marked up a score of years of service to Virginia farm men and women to the credit of Dr. Hutcheson, who in the opinion of many students of rural life, has done more to change the character of farming in this State for the better than any other Virginian of this generation."

■ K. E. Barraclough, New Hampshire extension forester since 1926, is on 6 months' sabbatical leave, studying at Harvard University on problems of land use as they apply to forestry and doing intensive research on the cooperative marketing of forest products. C. S. Herr, assistant extension forester, has been appointed acting extension forester in the interim.

■ Sylvia Wilson, Hampshire County, Mass., club agent, had a group of women at the Springfield Exposition during last September's hurricane who insisted upon getting home in the face of the storm. Up the river road they started, trees crashing down behind and beside the car. They drove around fallen elms and maples. It was a frightened group of women that drove into Northampton where they all lived except one whose home was at Amherst, 9 miles farther on. This woman was worried about her six children, so Miss Wilson started out through the storm again and probably was the last one through, as in a few minutes flood waters made the road impassable for a long stretch. The agent was marooned but felt repaid at the welcome the six little children gave their mother.

What is **your community** doing to promote good nutrition for children?

Proper food, rest, exercise, medical care, and protection against disease are of primary importance to the child's health. Special material on nutrition and child health and means of informing parents and others how to safeguard child health are available to community groups and others for May Day-Child Health Day, 1939.

Folders and Pamphlets:

Facts About Child Health.

Well-Nourished Children. Children's Bureau Folder 14 (in cooperation with Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture).

How To Make May Day-Child Health Day Exhibits, 1939.

HOW TO MAKE **MAY-DAY** **CHILD-HEALTH DAY** EXHIBITS 1939



Available also, especially for Child Health Day activities, is the Children's Bureau poster for 1939 with the slogan "The health of the child is the power of the Nation." This poster with the slogan was used also for the Children's Year Campaign in 1918-19.

May Day-Child Health Day 1939



Sample copies of this material may be had by writing to the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor. Additional copies of "Well-Nourished Children," at \$1.75 per 100, and of the May Day poster, at 20 cents each (100 or more, 25 percent discount). May be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.